

AB 1111

Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative

AB 1111: History

The Legislature approved and Governor Brown signed AB 1111 (*E. Garcia, Chapter 824, Statutes of 2017*) which established the Breaking Barriers to Employment Initiative to be administered by the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB).

This statute was sponsored by the California Workforce Association (CWA) in coordination with Policy Link and La Cooperativa.

\$15 million was appropriated in the 18/19 budget cycle to implement this initiative through CWDB. *Section 61, Senate Bill 856 (Budget Committee, Chapter 30, Statutes of 2018).*

AB 1111: Purpose and Overview

“The primary purpose of the initiative is to provide individuals with barriers to employment the services they need to enter, participate in, and complete broader workforce preparation, training, and education programs aligned with regional labor market needs. Those who complete these programs should have the skills and competencies necessary to successfully enter the labor market, retain employment, and earn wages that lead to self-sufficiency, and eventually, economic security.”

AB 1111 is not to duplicate or replicate existing programs or create new workforce and education programs. (UIC§14031[a])

Who can apply?

Eligible Applicants: Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs).

Required: At least one LWDB and one CBO must jointly apply.
(UIC§14032[d][1])

- Multiple LWDBs and CBOs may jointly apply. (UIC§14032[d][6])

**Applicant must notify each Local Board in the proposed service area if greater than one local area. (UIC§14032[d][2])*

Who can be served? *UIC §14034[a]-[o], inclusive*

- Disconnected Youth
- Women seeking training or education to move into nontraditional fields
- Displaced workers and long-term unemployed
- Unskilled or underskilled, low-wage workers
- Persons for whom English is not their primary language
- Economically disadvantaged persons
- CalWORKs participants
- Re-entry (incarcerated and soon to be released or formerly incarcerated)
- Veterans
- Native Americans
- Individuals with Disabilities
- Immigrant Job Seekers
- Persons over 50 years of age who need retraining for in-demand skills
- Any other population with barriers to employment identified in subdivision (j) of Unemployment Insurance Code §14005
 - Transgender, LGBTQ, GNC individuals
 - Displaced homemakers
 - Homeless individuals, children and youth
 - Foster care youth
 - Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers
 - Single parents

What activities are allowable? *UIC §14035*

Including but not limited to:

- English language improvement training
- Basic skills and adult education
- High school diploma and GED acquisition
- Skills and vocational training that aligns with regional labor market needs identified as part of the California Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act regional planning process
- Work experience
- On-the-job training
- Stipends for trainees
- Earn and learn training
- Industry certifications
- Pre-apprenticeship programming offered in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of UIC Section 14230, regardless of whether the pre-apprenticeship program funding source includes California Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funds
- Mentoring
- Other remedial education and work readiness skills
- Supportive services under the California Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
- Activities undertaken pursuant to subdivision (d) of UIC Section 14033

Funding

- Up to \$15,000,000 available
- Proposed minimum grant award is \$150,000 and the maximum grant award is \$500,000 per application
- 1:1 Cash or in-kind match will be required

What must an application include? (§14032(d)(1)-(6), inclusive)

CWDB will develop and create an RFA for AB 1111 which will include, *but not be limited to* the following criteria:

- The designation of at least one lead workforce development board and one lead mission-driven, community-based organization with experience in providing services to the designated targeted population(s).
- Designation of one or more targeted populations.
- The designation of a service area (must notify each workforce development board in the proposed service area if greater than one local area).
- Explanation of the specific purpose of the grant funds, the roles and responsibilities of each of the lead workforce development board(s) and community-based organization(s), and how funds will be used.
- The proposed number of individuals who will be served.
- What services will be provided to targeted population(s).
- A description of how the grant proposal is designed to complement the work of, and integrate the individuals being served with, the broader workforce, education, and employment system within the proposed service area.

Reporting Requirements

The Legislature and the Department of Finance are both deeply interested in who is receiving services under these grants, what types of services they are receiving, and whether these services are leading to good education, training, and employment outcomes. Rigorous data collection will be required of grantees.

- All relevant program data is to be entered into CalJOBS.
- A data collection directive will provide guidance and establish procedures to report data for the initiative.
- CWDB is required to submit interim and final reports to the Legislature.

Tentative timeline

Event	Date
Request for Applications Released	March 2019
Application Workshop	March 2019
Question and Answer Period	Date of RFA Release through Application Due Date
Application Due Date	Late April 2019
Award Announcement	June 2019
Grant Period	July 2019 – January 2021

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Questions/comments?

For program updates, please visit: <https://cwddb.ca.gov>